

THIS ISSUE

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SPASTICS NEWS

AUGUST 1967

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY MAGAZINE

Price 6d



Photo: Elite Photographers)

Don Moss at Ponds Fête

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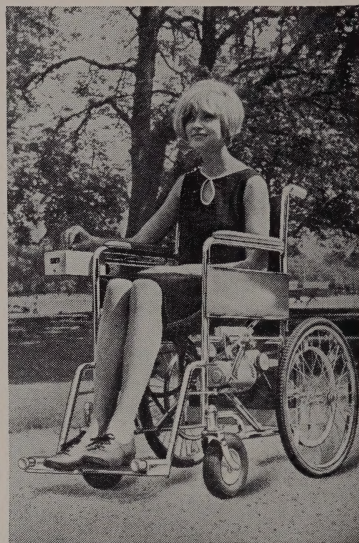
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SPASTICS NEWS

The magazine of The Spastics Society

Editor: Oliver Beckett

THE SPASTICS SOCIETY

12 Park Crescent, London, W.1

Tel. 636 5020 (S.T.D. 01-636 5020)



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Front Cover Picture:

Disc jockey Don Moss was at the Ponds Home for their Fête recently, and is seen here handing his G.C.E. award to Adrian Boulton. Mrs. Moss is holding their two-year-old baby in the background

AUGUST 1967

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Appointment of Director

The Chairman announces that Mr. James Loring, Deputy Director of the Society since January of this year, has been appointed Director.

The appointment was made by the Executive Committee at a meeting held at Park Crescent on 23rd July, and takes effect immediately.



MR. JAMES LORING

James Loring, who has been Acting Chief Executive since the death of Dr. C. P. Stevens, joined the Society as Treasurer in September, 1960. He was appointed Assistant Director Services to Spastics early in 1961, and was responsible, under the Committees, for Schools and Centres, Social Welfare, the Society's Development programme and lay administration of Medical and Psychological Services. He developed a special interest in sub-normality and in education and personally directs the Society's Education Seminars.

Before joining the Society Mr. Loring spent eleven years with the John Lewis Partnership, rising to be General Manager of Waitrose Group. He served in the Royal Air Force during the Second World War.

He represents the Society on the World Commission for Cerebral Palsy, the Mental Health Film Council, the British Committee of the International Society for Rehabilitation of the Disabled, and the National Council of Social Service. He is National Chairman of the Catholic Handicapped Children's Fellowship and a member of the British Sociological Association.

Mr. Loring read Economics at the University of London, where he has also done a year's work on Abnormal Psychology. He is 49 years old, married with three children and two grandchildren and lives in central London.

New Groups must learn — and Old Groups must progress

says 'REGIONALIST'

A NUMBER OF THE SOCIETY'S affiliated Groups succeed in being both old and modern. A remarkable achievement, surely. But is it so extraordinary?

Such a rare distinction really amounts to the fact that they burst into life fifteen to twenty years ago and are still bursting into life today.

Too few Groups, perhaps, can claim this happy distinction. Too many are just plain old. Others are new, with the appealing freshness of youth (and some of its brashness!) but as yet without a history.

Does your Group hold the double blue of age and youth? Is it a new Group entering the field to fight for the well-being of spastics, or is it just an old Group, full stop?

Achievement and experience go to make the laurels of old Groups; younger blood and fresh leadership are the weapons of the new. Old and new Groups have in common a desire to help spastics, but in some older Groups the will falters.

What have new Groups got that many old Groups seem to have lost? Initiative, unblunted drive, new ideas, a wider membership, a fresh approach a broader appeal.

But new Groups must not forget the forerunners, who toiled night and day over ways and means of helping spastics on the proper scale, and coped somehow with spastic children of their own at the same time. New Groups can learn from long-established Groups how best to tackle specific problems, the judicious uses of stick and carrot, what pitfalls to avoid.

The old Groups were largely formed by and for parents, who were united in their plights, determined in their action, at a time when the public was ignorant of cerebral palsy and the authorities, most of them, ignored the needs of spastics or swept the problem under the carpet. In the early days, the old Groups really got things moving.

To this day we hear the phrase 'Parents' Group' used to describe the Group itself, when it should of course be used to describe one part of the Group, that part which exists to foster contact between parents and to facili-

tate the discussion and solving of the more personal problems confronting families with spastic children. The original Groups were Parents' Groups for the very good reason that only parents were sufficiently interested in their formation at that time.

The Spastics Society and its affiliated Groups have come a long way since then, and great things have been achieved both by the national body and by Groups up and down the country.

Old Groups can be proud of the past, but they should also learn to adapt themselves, to renew themselves, if the same sort of progress is to continue in the future.

Old Groups must move with the times. It's not as hard as you think! Watch an astronaut entering his space-craft—just a modern knight in armour.

Away with the alleged fuddy-duddy image! Recruit younger people, give them a job to do, groom them for early responsibility. Find a keen publicity man who will enjoy the challenge of making your Group known to everyone in its territory. Allow long-serving office-bearers to retire and replace them with new minds dedicated to the same ideals. Get with it in the vital task of fund-raising, without which spastics cannot be helped in the way they deserve. Begin planning NOW for the 1970's.



Croydon, an active Group: Miss Ruth Stoakes, Matron of the Centre, escorted by the cook, collecting the proceeds of their Fête—£254



(Courtesy: Border Pictures)

After unveiling the memorial plaque (top right) Sir Fergus and Lady Graham have a word with Janet Haysom who presented the bouquet

NEW EXTENSIONS TO IRTON HALL INCLUDE A HYDRO-THERAPY POOL & ASSEMBLY HALL

'A castle of miracles' says Lord Lieutenant

'A CASTLE OF MIRACLES'—that is how the Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland, Sir Fergus Graham, described Irton Hall when he opened the extensions to the school on Wednesday, 28th June—nine years to the day since the original school was opened.

If ever a school merited such a description Irton did on its big day. The extensions have been carefully designed to blend in with the original house and provide children with the very latest teaching aids and equipment. They comprise the assembly hall in which the opening ceremony was held, a teaching/therapy block including a large pool and administrative block with staff accommodation. The new building means that the Hall is now used entirely to house the 57 pupils.

Despite its ultra-modern extensions the Hall is still very much a graceful country residence set in delightful grounds as the colourful display of flowers in the Hall—provided by the gardener—reminded visitors.

Sir Fergus, referring to the advances made by the school during the past nine

years, said they were 'a witness to the success of this pioneer project'.

In the past, he said, there has seemed little hope of coherent special education for handicapped spastic children but since the school—and similar schools throughout the country—had opened, many advances had been made in helping spastic children.

Mr. W. A. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society, welcomed the visitors, who, despite absolutely terrible weather, turned out in force for the big occasion. Among the happiest guests were the pupils themselves—they were determined that the rain would not spoil their day.

Mr. Burn described the opening of the extensions as 'an important milestone' in the history of the school and The Spastics Society.

But he had a warning note to strike too. 'The Society', he said, 'has during the past year or two been re-appraising its future policy and it is clear that we cannot continue the rate of expansion which we have pursued during the past few years. The local affiliated groups will have to raise more money locally

and become more independent financially, and secondly the national schools and centres must strive even harder to reduce and then eliminate their net running costs'.

Mr. J. A. Loring, the Deputy Director of the Society, proposing a vote of thanks to Sir Fergus, spoke of the particular affection he had for Irton Hall as it was one of his first tasks as the Society's first Assistant Director to advise committees whether or not the school should be continued or closed down. He recommended that it should continue and be extended—a happy choice for the pupils obviously.

Mr. D. J. Herd, Chairman of the Irton Hall Management Committee and a member of the Consultative Council, seconded the vote of thanks. For him and Mr. J. Nelson, the headmaster, who had organised events, 28th June will be long remembered as an extremely successful day where not even the rain could upset the smooth running of events.

Another person who will have happy memories of the day will be 16-year-old

(Continued overleaf)



(Courtesy: Cumberland Evening News)

MODERN LINES FOR NEW EXTENSION

Nine years to the day since it was opened, Irton Hall School, near Holmbrook in Cumberland, opens the new wing, built in modern style and yet complementing the crenellated towers of the old building

Janet Haysom, a pupil in her last term at the school. Janet presented a bouquet to Lady Graham. This was a nostalgic occasion for it was nine years ago to the day that Janet, then in her first year, presented a bouquet to Lady Chance, wife of the late Lt.-Col. Sir Robert Chance, former Lord Lieutenant of Cumberland who performed the original opening ceremony.

T.V. viewers in the North-west had a chance to see pictures of the Hall on television the same night on a five-minute programme, and to hear Mr. Burn and Mr. Nelson interviewed. Both took the opportunity to reach this larger audience. Mr. Nelson spoke of the aims of the school and Mr. Burn dealt with the wider aspect of the Society's work and its need for increased support from local authorities.

Fine New Centre at Leeds

— the culmination of ten years hard work

A FINE NEW WORK and recreational centre at Osmandthorpe Lane, Leeds, was opened on 8th July, by Lady Masham.

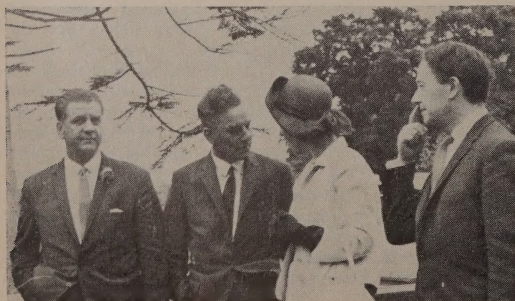
This had cost £50,000 for which The Spastics Society had contributed £38,000 and will provide places for fifty young men and women. At present, there are twenty-two working there, on contracts for carrier bags, packing small goods and assembling motor parts.

It was an important landmark in the history of the Leeds Society and the culmination of ten years hard work. For

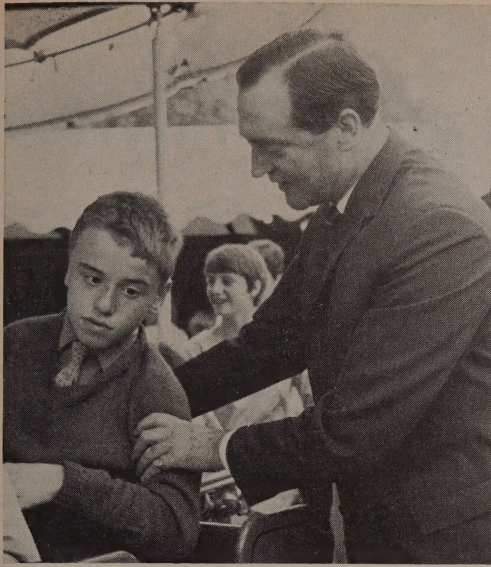
many members, raising the money has been almost a second full-time job, but they are full of praise for the generosity of the people in the district. 'It will provide the dignity of a useful role in Society and industrial activity not normally available in conventional workshops', said Lady Masham.

Mr. H. W. Palmer, Treasurer of The Spastics Society, in thanking Lady Masham for coming to unveil the commemorative plaque, said that over 1,000 places had now been created in centres round the country—an excellent example of the part voluntary organisations were playing in expanding the welfare services. 'It is to centres like this', he said, 'that many spastics are pinning their faith and looking for help'. But Mr. J. C. Demain, Chairman of the Executive Committee, looks forward to more hard work in the future. 'The Centre', he said, 'will cost about £7,000 a year to run, and that sort of money takes a great deal of raising'.

The Lord Mayor of Leeds, Ald. Lawrence Turnbull, accompanied by Mrs. Turnbull, inspected the centre and commended the Leeds Society for its wonderful work.



Mr. W. A. Burn, Mr. John Nelson, the headmaster, Lady Graham and Mr. James Loring at Irton



(Courtesy: Stearns)

(Left) Group-Captain Landon, D.F.C., who opened the Fête, helping Nicky Todd on the Roundabout. (Above) John Daniel mans Cambridge and District's stall, and David McGuinness tries his skill

MELDRETH GAINS ON THE SWINGS AND PROFITS BY THE ROUNDABOUTS!

BEFORE THE DAY, hail and thunder; on the day, sunshine. That was the luck of Meldreth for their Fête. Twenty-five stalls, Royston Town Band, and a police dog display brought the customers in.

Mrs. Landon, Miss Brookes and Mrs. Rowden-Briggs judged the best dressed wheelchair, and the Red Cross cadets were to the fore. The result: £440—better than last year.

Dr. Spock on handicapped children . . .

Dr. Benjamin Spock's 'Baby and Child' is an indispensable source of help and reassurance in millions of homes all over the world. But did you know that he has written a companion book?—

CARING FOR YOUR DISABLED CHILD. In collaboration with the eminent health education authority Dr. Marion O. Lerrigo, he presents the first comprehensive handbook for parents of handicapped children.

CARING FOR YOUR DISABLED CHILD is an honest, practical guide to the situations and problems parents have to face every day with handicapped children.

It covers day care, dental treatment, education, exercise and play, speech therapy, social activities, vocational training and the spastic child. It also has useful chapters on coping with aids and appliances, and modifying home routine and layout to make it safer and easier to look after.

On the bookshelf, CARING FOR DISABLED CHILD reinforces the skills of the child's doctors and

backs up everything they will say. All the time, it sees the child as a person, and not just the medical problem. Most important, it shows the ways he can realise his full potential and get the maximum enjoyment from life.

With CARING FOR YOUR DISABLED CHILD comes a specially-written supplement outlining the National Health Service, local authority, and voluntary aid available for handicapped children.

CARING FOR YOUR DISABLED CHILD is available from all good bookshops, price 30s. If you would like more details, or in case of difficulty, write to:

Dept. SP.11,
Collier-Macmillan Limited,
10 South Audley Street,
London W.1.

Caring for your Disabled Child

news and views . . . news and views

Groovey Gift

GIRLS OF ELIZABETH KENNY HOUSE at Wallasey Technical High School have saved up to buy a record player and a number of LP discs for Wallasey Spastics and Handicapped People's Club. As time goes on the girls hope to add to the records, not only with new discs but by sending their old ones to the club too, and Mr. E. T. Davies, club leader, has appealed to other young people in the area for out-dated pop records which they no longer require.

Welcome Legacy

FUNDS OF WESTON and District Society for the Spastic and Mentally Handicapped have leapt to a record total of £20,177. This included a legacy of £4,298, it was reported at the Group's Annual General Meeting.

Lowestoft Needs Centre

AT THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Lowestoft and North-East Suffolk Spastics Society it was reported that a caravan, used to provide a holiday home for

spastics and their families, had been completely renovated and redecorated at Blundeston Prison. 'Our chief need now' said the Chairman, Mr. P. J. Dickinson, 'is for a suitable centre from which to conduct our activities to help sixty local spastics'.

Occupational Therapy Brings Pleasure

DEWSBURY AND DISTRICT GROUP has started occupational therapy classes for spastics in the area. 'It has brought much pleasure to parents to see the sense of achievement enjoyed by the young people on the completion of their work', said Chairman, Mrs. D. J. Wood.

Bradford People Come First

BRADFORD BRANCH of The Spastics Society has opened Grove House, an adult residential home in Morley Street. There are only two Bradford people living there at present and the other three places are likely to be taken by candidates from other parts of the country. However, Bradford spastics will still have priority

and residents from other areas will only be allowed to stay when all the places are not occupied by Bradford people.

Croydon Spastics Go to Jersey

AMONG THE MANY SPASTICS who have spent holidays in Jersey this year are a party from Croydon Work Centre. For many of them it is their first holiday ever and some have saved up the £35 cost out of their 25s. weekly wage packet. This is the first holiday the Centre has organised and if it goes well there is a good chance that another will be organised next year.

New Treatment at Luton

'The Times' recently published an article by Joan Rodker about a new treatment for cerebral palsy which is being investigated at the Lady Zia Wernher Spastics Centre in Luton. This treatment, called 'conductive education' was pioneered by Dr. Andras Peto of Hungary, and is being carried out at Luton by two physiotherapists who have studied Dr. Peto's methods in Budapest. Eight severely handicapped athetoids spend six hours each day in one strictly functional room with few distractions. Self-help and unity are the essence of the treatment and the two conductors are 'physiotherapist, occupational and speech therapist, psychologist, nurse and teacher all rolled into one. . . .'

After a year's work, all the children (aged between 3 and 12) can now sit unsupported, feed themselves, drink from a mug, count up to five and 'walk' with support.

West Kent Spastics Urged to Join

AT THE 14TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the West Kent Spastics Society, Chairman, Mr. E. W. Harding, urged parents of local spastics to contact the Group. He said there were many spastics in the area who did not know of the Society's work. It was only by joint effort that need could be assessed and action taken to help them.

The number of trainees at the Group's Work Centre in Park Road, Bromley, had risen to twenty-six over the past year and additional staff had been taken on. At the



The children at Meldreth were recently given a magnificent 'edible house, made out of icing and sweets by Mrs. Eugenie Beckett, of Dereham, Norfolk. It took her three days to make the cake which stands 2ft. 6in. high—it was inspired by the story of Hansel and Gretel', says Mrs. Beckett

news and

centre the spastics, doing sub-contract work for local industry, are trained in light engineering assembly work and it is hoped that some may eventually graduate to open employment. At the start of the meeting, members stood in silent tribute to the late Ald. Ralph N. Allen, the Society's President, who had died only a few days before.

Gift of Furniture

THE SWANSEA INNER WHEEL CLUB have contributed over £1,500 in money and equipment to the Swansea and District Spastic Association over the past ten years and have now given a suite of furniture for the new occupational therapy unit at Longfields, West Cross. Mr. C. Guy, the President, handing over the suite said that club members were so impressed with the magnificent building provided by the Spastic Association that they wished to present something that would be useful to the young spastics in their recreation room.

Sembal Trust Grant

THE SEMBAL TRUST has recently awarded a grant of £1,000 to the Tower Hamlets Council of Social Service. The trust was set up in 1961 by members of the Friends of Spastics League who had decided to broaden their activities and help alleviate other forms of distress. During the financial year, 1966/67 the Sembal Trust made grants totalling nearly quarter of a million pounds to over one hundred organisations.

Thomas Delarue School on Film

A NEW FILM has been made at Thomas Delarue School, showing the many varied activities in which the pupils take part. The film starts with the arrival of Prince Philip in his red helicopter for the school's official opening in June, 1964, and continues with some of the pupils working for their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. The projects include camping, where the boys are seen pitching tents and cooking over a camp fire, and sewing by the girls.

The needlework sequence would be a good object lesson for people who know little about spastics, for it gives an excellent picture of the girls' athetoid movements. Outsiders, seeing the stiffly grotesque working of their fingers might



A VIEW OF THE SWISS ALPS

Victor Hancox painted this fine view of the mountains above Lake Thun in Switzerland when a party from Coombe Farm went there for a holiday. (See p.17.) Victor has had two of his paintings accepted for the United Society of Artists Exhibition in London, and has also appeared on T.V.

think 'Oh, they can't be sewing properly'! but in fact quite intricate work is being done and some of the finished results are beautiful. Many of the embroidery patterns are the pupils' own designs.

Maths and art classes are seen in progress, while the many sporting activities include wheelchair basketball, swimming, riding and sailing. Cyclists (and tricyclists) are also shown being tested for their knowledge of the Highway Code under the eagle eye of a police officer.

The film ends with a cooking sequence in which four senior girls prepare an ambitious picnic menu. They make pastry for sausage rolls and cornish pasties, bake and fill a strawberry gateau and prepare fresh lemonade. The menu is carried through in detail and the final amusing shot shows the four cooks stretched out blissfully on the grass after eating their own picnic.

Consultative Panel at Chesterfield

AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of Chesterfield Spastics Society, members were told of a local Consultative Panel which had been set up to interview and assess the needs of spastic school leavers in the area.

Two Steam Rallies Rained Off

THE TORRENTIAL RAINS which swept the country over the weekend of 25th June caused bitter disappointment to the organisers of two traction engine rallies in aid of spastics. The first, held at Bell

Lane, Little Chalfont, Bucks, to collect money for Ponds Home, included a display of vintage cars and buses and an exhibition by the High Wycombe Model Engineering Society. Real steam enthusiasts were not deterred by the rain but obviously the event would have attracted many more people if the weather had been fine.

A similar misfortune occurred at Stamford, Lincs., where the two-day Spastics Carnival and steam rally is an annual event in aid of the Scunthorpe Centre. Saturday's procession, led by Carnival Queen, Angeline Cooper, was happily unaffected by the weather and other items which took place between the showers included a motor-cycle display, performances by local bands and a church service with hymns accompanied by one of the fourteen fair organs which were on show. Carnival organisers fear that the wet weekend may have cost them at least £1,000 in lost profits.

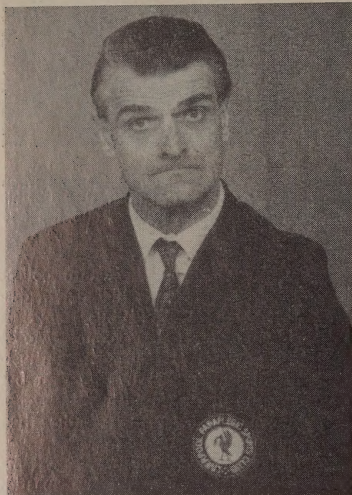
Call Me Generous

THE BLACKPOOL and Fylde Light Opera Company recently staged a production of 'Call Me Madam', at the luxurious ABC Theatre, Blackpool, which is one of the most important cinemas in Europe. During each performance the local Spastics Group was allowed to sell raffle tickets, and the sum of £180 was presented to the Group at the end of the last performance. Mr. Bob Parsons, manager of the ABC Theatre, and his staff, were particularly helpful during the fund-raising activities.

tomorrow the world

ANNE PLUMMER
REPORTS

Mr. Price makes his own opportunities



Trevor Price in sports blazer. He hopes to attend the first ever course for Disabled Computer Programmers at Queen Elizabeth College, Leatherhead

THANKS TO THE EFFORTS of Trevor Price, of Prescot, Lancs, a scheme is being devised which will enable disabled people to work in their own homes as computer programmers for Government departments.

In Mr. Price's own words:

'... It is the most wonderful opportunity the disabled have ever had in any country in the world, and it also enables them to enter the technological age if only they take it and work hard. As the first one to be given this chance under the scheme, I have the responsibility of proving it. Therefore I dare not fail the disabled. . .'

Forty-one-year-old Mr. Price is himself an athetoid, who has severe speech and hearing difficulties. Up to the age of ten, he was educated at home by his mother, a Montessori teacher, and missed the company of other children. However, once he was able to go out on his own, he

attended a private school, where he stayed for three years, up to the outbreak of war.

He took an early interest in sport and has won cups for playing bowls—the outdoor variety. In 1964, he won the 60-metre sprint at the multi-disabled sports meet at Stoke Mandeville and he has also won awards for walking, darts, javelin and discus events.

However, except for a short period as a Post Office sorter during Christmas one year, he was unable to find work and naturally became very frustrated. Following an intelligence test at his local hospital, it was suggested that he might take a correspondence course. He decided to study accountancy by this method and, although some people expressed doubts about the possible outcome, this made him all the more determined to succeed. He did very well, in fact, gaining 595 marks out of a possible 600, in one subject and won a diploma in accountancy early in 1962.

However, despite this success and the untiring efforts of the Society's Placement Officer on his behalf, he was still unable to find a job. Taking matters into his own hands, Mr. Price then decided to write to the Prime Minister, in whose constituency he lives. Mr. Wilson showed an interest in the problem of employment for disabled people and, after consultations with the Minister of Labour and Treasury officials, the computer programming scheme was devised. On his birthday this year, Mr. Price received two textbooks and a personal letter from the Prime Minister, expressing pleasure at the developments, and wishing him all success. A Treasury officer in Whitehall is helping Mr. Price with his lessons.

This development opens up exciting new possibilities for intelligent people who have previously been held back by physical handicaps. Mr. Price's initiative in bringing the problem to the notice of the Prime Minister will undoubtedly benefit many home-bound spastics and his obvious determination will ensure the success of the plan.



CRUISING UP THE RIVER . . .

THIRTY-TWO SWEDISH SPASTICS recently spent ten days at Dene Park Further Education Centre as part of a three-way holiday exchange. At the same time thirty-eight Dene Park students were staying at schools in Holland, while a party of Dutch spastics had gone to Sweden. All three parties had full programmes of sightseeing, the Britons, for instance, visiting The Hague, Amsterdam, and Rotterdam with a day trip into Germany and a boat journey on the Rhine.

For most of the Swedish party at Tonbridge this was the first time they had been abroad, or flown. They went to Brighton, Bexhill, Windsor and the London Zoo. A Chinese meal was also scheduled and high on their list of priorities was a visit to a typical English pub. On the second full day of their visit, they came to London by coach and were driven round to see some of the famous landmarks before going on the river. Two of us from The Spastics Society headquarters joined them as they embarked at Westminster Pier for a voyage up the Thames to Richmond.

They enjoyed themselves

Although many were severely handicapped and in wheelchairs they and twenty-one Swedish members of staff who accompanied them were a lively crowd, obviously thoroughly enjoying the holiday. The spastics, aged between 16 and 25, mostly came from a school in Gothenburg run by the Swedish Spastics Society where some of the students are residential and others attend daily. As with most groups of teenagers nowadays, there was a higher proportion of boys than girls in the party. All have been learning English for four or five years but were mostly too shy to practise it.

I spoke to Bjorn, this year's Chairman of the Students' Committee, whose favourite pastimes, I was told, were sleeping and eating! Nevertheless, he had remained quite slim, and, apart from severe athetoid movements, was a hand-

access problems



is that Queen Boadicea?



cameras at the ready . . .

some youth of the blond, sunburnt Viking type.

Another boy looked exactly like one of our Rolling Stones with orange-striped shirt, heavily studded belt and black jacket. His shoulder-length hair contrasted oddly with the heads of one or two other boys, close-cropped to about quarter-inch in typical Scandinavian style. It was also interesting to meet among the staff a young Danish house-mother, working at Prested Hall for a year, who had been 'loaned' to Dene Park for the duration of the Swedish visit.

I was closely cross-examined by a group of boys about the position of British spastics in industry. They were very conscious of not being able to find jobs in their own country and wondered how their English counterparts fared. Although hardly qualified in the subject, I told them a little about Sherrards, Birmingham, and the Society's residential centres. However, it was difficult to know how much they understood as even the interpreter's vocabulary did not include such technical terms as 'sheltered workshop', 'training centre' and 'light en-

gineering'.

The River Thames was looking at its best under the warm haze of a July day, and once away from the dreary conglomeration of factories and warehouses around Fulham, there were some attractive views of old buildings set amongst clumps of trees along the towpath. The voyage took four hours altogether as we stayed on the boat when it turned round at Richmond and made the return journey downstream.

As we came back towards Westminster, the Houses of Parliament took on a new dimension from the river. The dark pinnacled stonework was thrown into interesting relief against the smooth glass and metal of the modern office blocks which towered around, 'All bright and glittering in the smokeless air', but with the red buses going over Westminster Bridge, this was a far cry from Wordsworth's 'A sight so touching in its majesty'. Nevertheless the juxtaposition of old and new was, I felt, something peculiarly English and a fitting memory of London to be taken away by our foreign visitors.



anchors aweigh!

MORE ITEMS FROM
THE SOCIETY'S STAND
AT THE H.E.M.S.
EXHIBITION AT OLYMPIA

AIDS & APPLIANCES

Compiled by
N. D. B. ELWES



Aids to Treatment: 'Funnels' graded in size in all different colours. Boards—painted white with appropriate colour and size superimposed. Aims: 1. To teach the relationship of size of 'funnel' to size of 'circle'; 2. An aid to encourage grip and also Hand/Eye co-ordination; 3. To teach colour recognition.



Aids for Cooking: The Flavel G.C.1 Gas Cooker designed for the handicapped by the Gas Council. Features include automatic lighting with special device to prevent mains gas leaving burners unless the pilot flame is alight, gas taps with lever handles which can be turned on with back of hand or elbow if required. Enquiries to The Gas Council, 1 Grosvenor Place, London, S.W.1.



Aids to movement: This game requires sustained grip and free movement at the wrist. According to the position in relation to the child, elbow and shoulder action can be incorporated to a greater or lesser degree. The vertical position shows action with and against gravity.

Both this exhibit and the one shown above were kindly sent to us by the Occupational Therapist of Trengweath Spastics Centre, Plymouth, and created much interest in our stand.

Access for the Disabled: O. A. Denly, M.B.E., seen here sitting in his own wheelchair between the 1967 light weight Everest and Jennings wheelchair weighing 34 lbs. and the 1920 'Carlsbad' wheelchair weighing 90 lbs.

The handicapped can count themselves fortunate that Mr. Denly has transferred from the Hospital Service to pack a four-year punch into the above campaign.

As Chairman of the Joint Committee for the Mobility of the Disabled and founder of the Disabled Drivers Association, formerly the Invalid Tricycle Association, he brings to this campaign exactly the right combination of drive and experience to get the local authorities and architects and town planners to create better living conditions for the disabled be it living in the home, in the school, travelling on roads, trains or aeroplane, working in factories, or visiting public buildings.

In the photograph Mr. Denly holds in his hands the new publication on local conditions 'London for the Disabled' by Freda Bruce Lockhart, price 6s. Since the book's release there has been great pressure to prepare similar local guides for other major towns. Enquiries for this book or for help and information on accessibility, to Access for the Disabled, 39 Victoria Street, S.W.1.



STOP PRESS

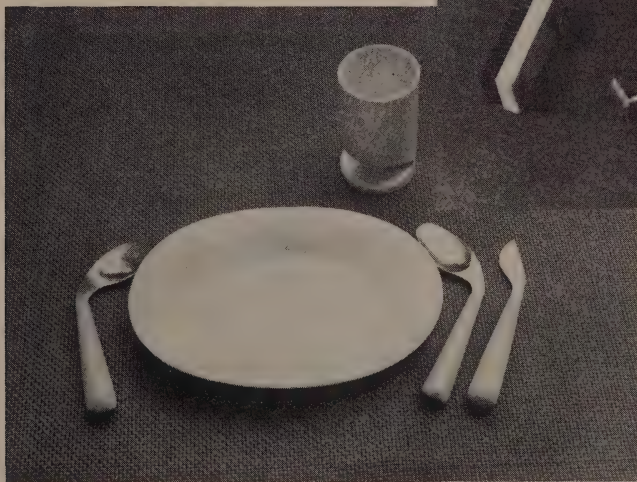
Good news on I.B.M. typewriters for the disabled. On July 20th, I.B.M. Ltd. decided that 'Model C' typewriters would now be issued second-hand to the disabled instead of 'Model AA'.

We are most grateful for this concession, particularly that this more up-to-date machine will be sold at £25 as before.

The waiting list has now risen to one year, but Mr. Hearson, a Director in I.B.M., hopes that now they can soon reduce this.



Aids in Bed and Bathroom: The photograph above shows the use of rubber suckers on nail brush and nail file and special handles for razors and a comb. Conversions done through British Red Cross, details from me, N. Elwes, Aids and Appliances, 12 Park Crescent, W.1.



Aids designed by Students and Research Workers: The set of cutlery and crockery on the left, designed by Mr. Russel Manoy, Post Graduate student of the Central School of Art and Design, has created a great deal of interest all over the world. We hope that it will soon be manufactured.

Sketches
by SALLON

No. 2

John Price, F.C.A.



THE Assistant Director, Finance, has been with the Society since the end of 1961, when he took over the post as Treasurer, previously held by Mr. Loring, becoming an Assistant Director the following year. John is a genial fellow, and the cares of administering an important department, and the worry of coping with the problems of finance, seem to be carried lightly on his shoulders. He is as much at home in committee as with the slide-rule.

Now 37 years old, and the father of four children, he lives in Caterham, Surrey, where he enjoys gardening. He

also has an informed interest in landscape painting, but a somewhat jaundiced view of cartoonists!

He was at Harrow, and after a spell in the Army, worked for seven years with accountancy firms in London before taking up an appointment with British Wireless and Television prior to joining the Society.

Born towards the end of August, he is never quite sure whether he has more of the imagination of the Leo character, or the down-to-earth outlook of the Virgo—perhaps he has something of both.



(Photo: John Bundock)

A group of overseas delegates pose for a picture in the sunshine outside the Conference Hall

Animated Discussion at '62 Clubs Conference

Bill Hargreaves describes the scene at Reading

'I HAVE BEEN to many conferences, but this is one of the finest I have attended'. This tribute was paid at the conclusion of the first day by Mr. James Loring, Deputy Director of The Spastics Society.

What a sight Mr. Loring beheld; some two hundred delegates from throughout Great Britain, with twenty others, representing Poland, Belgium, Sweden, Holland, Italy, Australia, Germany and Japan, adding the international flavour, all excitedly awaiting excellent papers,

which they received in good measure. Papers relating to Education presented by Miss M. T. MacBride of the Ministry of Education and Science and by John Le-Prevost, Education Officer. These were followed by papers equally as stimulating on the subject of Employment of the Handicapped by Mr. K. F. Swinfen of the Ministry of Labour and Mr. S. T. Allman, Head of Centres who was previously Employment Officer.

Much discussion was evoked by each paper and there is no doubt that, having had their appetites whetted at the previous International Conference at Nottingham, the delegates were in training for the interesting and animated discussions.

Ideas of the Future

Next, it was the turn of the Deputy Director, Services to Spastics, Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye, who spoke about his ideas of the future needs of spastics and who expressed himself grateful that he had the opportunity of asking of the delegates the sort of questions which were occupying his mind. Again, much discussion took place and the delegates, while congratulating the Society on the work it was planning, requested that some regard might be taken of the views of spastics themselves, perhaps by including some upon committees of the Society.

At the Conference dinner that evening, the delegates were delighted to welcome as their guests of honour, Mr. W. Burn, Chairman of The Spastics Society and

Mrs. Burn; and after a really sumptuous meal, speeches were heard from Bill Hargreaves, Mr. Burn, Mr. Cumplen (Secretary of The Spastics Society), Miss Janet Evans Southend ('62 Club), Dr. Ron Firman (Nottingham '62 Club), and Mr. Alex Moira (Vice-Chairman of The Spastics Society).

After breakfast on Sunday, there was a short service for those who wished to attend and well over a hundred did, conducted by the Chaplain to the University of Reading, the Rev. John Graham.

The morning session was given over to a most interesting and well received paper by Kurt Juster, Chairman of the Hamburg Spastics Society and member of the World Commission of Cerebral Palsy. This raised many questions from the floor, which Mr. Juster was obviously delighted to answer. Other delegates from overseas then took the rostrum and gave short histories of the work being done in their countries.

During the afternoon, delegates unanimously voted to form an Association of '62 Clubs. More about which will be published in the next Club Supplement of The Spastics Society.

As at Nottingham, each Chairman was a spastic personality and while comparisons are always odious, special tribute must be paid to Miss Rosemary Dawson-Shepherd, who so ably conducted that nightmare of all Chairmen, the opening session.

A selection of the papers will be published in the next issue of the Club Supplement.

New R.O. for South-East

TAKING OVER from Hugh Cunningham in charge of the large area including parts of Hampshire, Sussex and Kent, is 47-year-old Mr. M. R. Venables. He will be moving from Bristol and his headquarters will remain at Redhill as before.

When he left Cambridge he joined the Royal Corps of Signals in which he served until 1947. He then 'carried the white man's burden' in the Colonial Service in Africa until 1962, when he became Administration Manager with I.B.M., United Kingdom, until this year.

Mike Venables is an approachable person with much experience in Local Government and a keen desire to do his best for the Groups and the Society in his capacity as Regional Officer. He is fond of sailing and golf, and is married with two boys of 16½ and 13 years of age.

We wish him well in his new appointment. (Picture next month, Editor.)

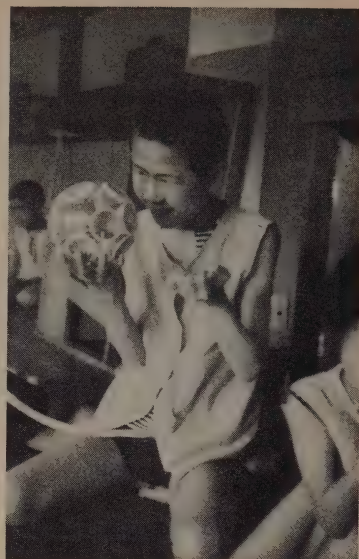
1 JAPAN

AFTER LEAVING school I spent nine months travelling round the Far East. During this time I had the opportunity to see what was being done for spastics in Japan, Hong Kong and Singapore.

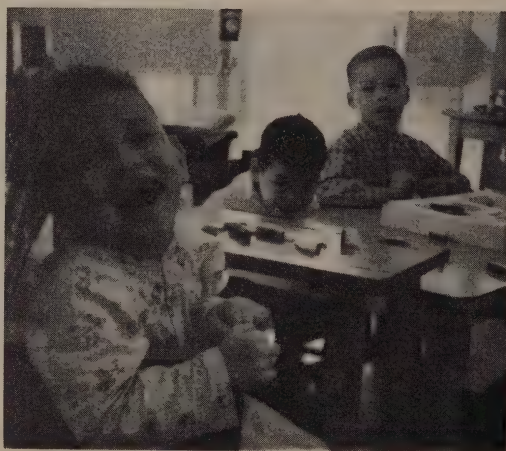
In Japan I worked for two weeks in a spastics' centre near Tokyo. I was told that spastics are not officially recognised in Japan, so there are only three centres (supported by private donations) where only 300 children can be looked after, leaving a known waiting list of over 10,000.

The one I visited was residential with ninety children (ages 2-21 years) and a good staff ratio of 70. However they had only one full teacher, while a few of the staff had a short teacher-training and the rest were untrained.

One fact, above all, amazed me—they had one child who lived six years without a brain (and apparently there are only three known cases of this in the world).



CENTRES FOR SPAS



2 HONG KONG

RECENTLY HONG KONG has seen a great development in social welfare and the treatment of various disabilities—such as those of spastics.

A centre is being built in Sandy Bay and a preliminary centre has started in a church hall with 20 children (ages 4-12 years). They mostly have I.Q. of 60-100, they are all considered educable and have only slight physical defects. They were much more constructive than the Japanese children—making straw mats, writing, painting and so on.

Another new centre for handicapped children, built, equipped and financed by the World Rehabilitation Fund, has been handed over to Hong Kong Red Cross to operate. The centre, named after the late President Kennedy, has residential facilities for sixty spastic children and places for twenty day pupils. The World Rehabilitation Fund also provided money to send key staff of the centre overseas for specialised training.

3 SINGAPORE



CS IN ASIA

*written and illustrated
by NICK ROBINS*

SINGAPORE TOO has recently taken an interest in spastics. A very pleasant day-centre treats 80 children (ages 6-18) who are mostly of a fairly high mental grade and mobile. However, the teachers (who are unable to get a mental health training) worried about the suitable methods of teaching.

So, in general, interest is increasing but as yet there are no skilled (i.e., physio's, O.T.'s, etc.) and little specialised equipment. The cerebral palsied in Britain have much to be thankful for.

We are proud to break a Japanese law

I was warned when taking photos not to show them to anyone in Japan—it is against the law.

(Note from the author)



Handicapped Children's Register

FIFTEEN to 20 per cent of children born in Wiltshire are being listed on a comprehensive register of children born with congenital malformations and 'at risk' children who could later develop physical and mental disabilities, said Dr. C. D. L. Lycett, at the Wessex Region Conference.

The register, he went on, was providing valuable information to local health authorities and helping in the early diagnosis and treatment of handicapped children.

'Information supplied by the doctor or midwife is classified by a national scheme, so that it can be sent periodically to the Registrar General for the compilation of reliable statistics,' he said.

'Under this scheme, any possibility of disability becomes known to the local health authority at a very early stage. But not every one can be detected in this way—some heart conditions are not evident until the child is much older.

Future handicaps

'Of course, development of future handicaps cannot be predicted with certainty. It is much too soon to tell how many of those listed will have some handicap, although when accurate follow-ups take place I am sure there will be much interesting and valuable information.

'Screening tests, similar to those for hearing, are another means for the early diagnosis of handicaps and will become increasingly important in the future. They will be used to ascertain whether the possibility of handicap can be excluded.

'The efficiency of these schemes is helped by the closer co-operation between the Medical Officer of Health, the health visitors and family doctors. They may lead to the development of special health centres where all work together.

'The mentally handicapped require teaching to the limits of their ability and this should include social education. The trend now is to keep handicapped children in normal schools, but the severely handicapped are better in special centres where modifications have been made to the buildings.

'Handicapped children often have difficulty in obtaining and keeping employment due to deficiencies in education rather than because of the handicap itself. There are many handicapped who are capable of doing more than at present. The schools' health service should be responsible for certifying a child fit for work—otherwise he should be referred to a special factory doctor.

'There is encouraging evidence that the incidence of cerebral palsy is decreasing and is now about one per 1,000 at birth'.

Roger Daniel found his own way from Birmingham to the Costa Brava and back—here's what happened

I HAD BEEN SAVING HARD for my holiday for eight months, putting away something each week out of my wages from Meadway Works, Birmingham. Mr. Downes, our accountant, looked after the money and later changed it into foreign currency for me. Mr. Cowan, our Displacement Resettlement Officer arranged for me to get a passport from the local Labour Exchange, and witnessed my signature on the application form.

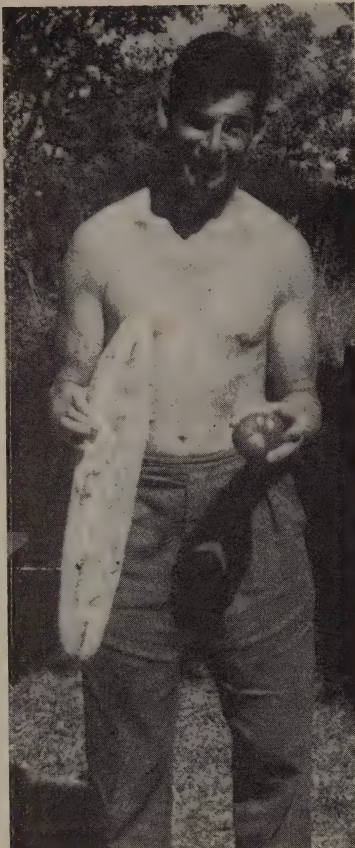
As this would be a camping holiday, most of our food had to be taken with us and members of Meadway Works staff helped me in their spare time by making lists, shopping and lending me various household items. I had labels typed with the addresses of my family and friends, ready to stick on to postcards and a list for the Customs of items such as camera and shaver, which I was taking, so that there would be no difficulty in bringing them back into this country. I had my smallpox vaccination, Mum and Dad came to Birmingham to help me pack and at last the time for my holiday drew near.

'I began to feel nervous'

On my last day at work I began to feel excited and nervous all at the same time. When it was time to leave all the workshop staff shook my hand and wished me well. Many of them said I was going to do what they hadn't done yet. In the evening, we went to a dance, which made a good start to the adventure I had waited so long for. All my family had been to Spain and now I was going to see it for myself.

At last the great day came. Feeling very excited, I boarded the coach which left Birmingham at 2 p.m. The other passengers were very nice and I soon made friends with Mrs. Shirley, a widow from Lancashire. It seemed no time at all before we arrived at Southampton. It was exciting to see the Dockyard. After the passport and Customs checks the coach drove straight onto the boat—Viking 1, sailing for Le Harve. We pulled away from the docks about 9 p.m. and I felt very happy and excited. Now we were really on our way, leaving England behind for nearly two weeks.

I had a bunk in a four-berth cabin, but did not sleep well as it was too near the engine. Every time the boat rolled, I



Roger with his Trophies!

bumped my head or knees against the sides of the narrow bunk. I got up at about 5.30 a.m. and went to the 'hold', where we had to board the coach once more. There were 30 cars, eight coaches and two lorries down there. All had to be left in gear, with no brakes on and were not tied down.

Having landed in France, we had to show our passports again and I changed £2 into French currency. Food here was very dear—3s. for a small cup of coffee and a sandwich. However, we had a gas stove under the floor of the coach so we

could brew up ourselves. We were driving on the right-hand side of the road now and it felt very funny at first. All along the route I saw people picking grapes and sugar cane in the fields. The countryside, although flat, looked very neat and clean. The farms all seemed to be mechanised, though some had donkeys, oxen and horses. The roofs of the houses seemed very different from ours. When we stopped for lunch near a church, a funeral was taking place.

Just before six, we reached our first camp. I had a tent to myself with gas-stove, table and chair-bed. We all helped unload the coach and then cooked our evening meal. The folks were just like those at the workshop. They left me to do things for myself but helped when I needed them. It was all very nice. I had a shower and, being sleepy, went to bed early. In the morning, I had my breakfast at 6.30 and looked round the countryside until the coach left two hours later.

All day we passed the same clean, neat, white houses and countryside where everybody seemed to work in the fields. Our second overnight stop was a camp run by English people, so we were able to have English food. I paid the equivalent of 8s. for steak, chips and beer. Around lunch-time the next day (Tuesday) we drove excitedly over the Spanish border. Here we were at last. I felt my wonderful adventure was really taking place. Everybody in the coach was happy, singing and laughing all the time. After a short stop for lunch by the sea, we were on our way again, with the lovely country on one side and the sea on the other, so blue that I shall always remember it. At last we reached camp at Lloret, unpacked and prepared for our eight days' stay.

Life begins at 10 p.m.

In Spain, life doesn't begin until 10 p.m. Everybody sleeps in the afternoon. Shops are open from 6 a.m. to noon and again from 5 to 10 p.m. Milk costs 1s. 9d. per litre but bread is about the same as in England. There were lots of souvenir shops in the narrow back streets of Lloret and everything was generally very cheap. Our camp, where five different nationalities were staying, was half-a-mile from the sea and I went swimming almost every day. We went to a different night club every evening. This cost 200 pesetas (24s.) but covered champagne, dancing, meal, everything. We really lived! It was like a party from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. every night.

I would not go to a bullfight as it was too expensive and, having lived on a farm, I didn't want to see the bulls hurt. However, I bought some pictures of the bullfight and the man did not give me enough change, so I argued with him. In the end, he was so confused, I got too much change. He was still in a muddle

when I left him. Another day, I saw some spastics sweeping the roads. I stopped, but we could not talk because they didn't understand English and I didn't know any Spanish. But we were all very excited and happy, laughing and shaking hands, as we all knew we were spastics.

One afternoon, we were having an English cup of tea and I nearly fell off my chair when the waitress came up and asked me if I was at Meadow Works! It seems she had come to work in Spain for six months but her home was near the workshop in Garretts Green Lane and she had seen me going to work.

Other highlights of our stay were an Old Crocks Rally on the beach at Lloret a boat-trip to Tamariu and a drive through the countryside where grape and sugar cane farming was practised. We also visited Tossa and another large town 85 miles away where some of the party went to a bullfight. One night there was a terrible thunderstorm and nearly everybody's clothes got wet in the tents. We had to hang the clothes up to dry in the back of the coach which made people stare as we drove along.

Everyone was singing

Before we left Lloret on the second Tuesday of our stay, we had to pull down the tents, as ours was the last trip this year. We took a different route back to the border and drove 60 miles before lunch, with everyone singing and waving all the way.

With two more overnight stops in France we reached Le Havre again about 8.30 in the evening. As a 'thank you' for all she had done for me during the holiday, I invited Mrs. Shirley to have a meal with me on the boat. I was interested to see that the table had a ledge all round and was bolted to the floor. The cups had rubber suckers on the bottoms to stop them rolling over.

We went through the Customs at Southampton about seven in the morning and were soon on the road again for the final stage of our journey. It seemed strange to be driving on the left again. It was a cold foggy morning in England and one needed an overcoat.

Finally we arrived in Birmingham. I felt sad at leaving my fellow passengers but happy that I had done what I set out to do. Everyone waved goodbye and I was very tearful when the coach went out of sight but I felt content that I could say 'I've done it—I've been to Spain'. I caught a bus to the workshop where everybody was at lunch when I arrived. They all gasped when I walked in with a long loaf and a tomato, four inches in circumference which I had brought all the way from France!

I had travelled 3,000 miles and enjoyed every minute of it. I'd done it. That was all that mattered.



A picture of the party from Coombe Farm, taken by Mr. B. Gedin, a Housefather. Pity we can't print it in colour to show how sunburnt they are!

'We did it!' ADVENTURE: 2

A party from Coombe Farm went to Switzerland; Leslie Parker writes

Sixteen residents and eight staff from Coombe Farm visited Switzerland last Autumn. Leslie Parker here describes one or two of the highlights of the trip.

THE VAN CAME RATHER LATE that morning just when we wanted it to be early, because in the afternoon we were going on a four-hour cruise up Lake Thun.

Thun has a lovely shopping centre; instead of having policemen on point duty, they have girls directing the traffic. I went into a couple of big shops, where they sold almost everything: soft music was playing all the time.

Soon after lunch, I made my way towards the boat. When everybody was on board, she began to pull away from the pier. The blue water was lapping against the side of the boat. From the lake, I could see the 'Eiger' very clearly and all the other mountains.

It got very hot by this time.

As the boat called on the way back, more came on. I remember a party of German schoolchildren, sightseers with their teacher. He was dressed in black leather shorts.

In no time at all, the boat tied up at Thun and everybody got off, before our party. While I was waiting to be pushed down the gangway, an old lady dropped two plums in my chair, she must have felt sorry for me. It didn't take very long to get everybody off the ship. The van was waiting to take us back.

At about nine o'clock that evening, I

heard singing, so I went outside where it was lovely and cool after the heat of the day. There was a party of Swiss yodelers. They were standing in a half circle and the light above the door shone on them; their singing was unforgettable. When they finished, one of the men came over to me and shook my hand. So ended a most glorious day.

I also went on the all day coach trip to Grindelwald, which was most enjoyable, and saw the famous Eiger.

The third trip was to the Blue Lake, where I saw the Trout Nursery. They put the trout into tanks according to their age and grading. It was very interesting to see the very young ones swimming about, then to move on and see the big trout in the end tanks.

While Matron was pushing me, we saw a man going around with a stick, killing those fish that were not up to standard. Not far away, a gorgeous St. Bernard was lying down. When I went over to him, Matron tried in vain to get him to stand up for a photograph; so Matron took it with him lying down; the lazy old thing!

Like all good things, everything must come to the end, so I flew back to London on the night flight from Zurich after a glorious twelve days in sunny Switzerland. I got back to Coombe Farm at about half-past one on the Tuesday morning, with a lot of happy thoughts from my holiday.

Making Music with Six-inch Nails

Twenty teachers — later joined by some children, pioneer some original ideas in music-making, described by R. S. JOHNSON
(Tutor Organiser at Castle Priory)

I WAS MOST INTERESTED to see in the April issue of SPASTICS NEWS an article by Miss Monica Young referring to the charms of music, and her request that handicapped persons, both young and old, who have an interest in music, no matter whether it be purely passive as a listener or more active as a participant in a choir, orchestra or other group, should contact her and help with a contribution to Mr. Irwin Walters' survey, which is being held in three parts of the country, to find out the difficulties and problems that handicapped people are meeting in trying to satisfy their musical needs.

The article interested me, as for some time I have felt that music for all of us is no longer the active, pleasurable activity which some years ago, so we are led to believe, it was. So much of our musical appreciation is based on the music by which we are confronted, and I use this word carefully, during our school career.

At Castle Priory we recently held a course for non-specialist music teachers—members of staff who, interested in music are keen to share it with those in their schools, but, probably because of a feeling that the music 'specialist' is the person who 'takes music' are only incidentally bringing their ideas to the classroom.

In special schools there is a far greater need for a teacher to adapt himself in the course of a day, to take many topics which are not necessarily his specialist subjects. This may be to break up a routine, to relieve a monotony, to spark off another interest, to illustrate a specific point, or use some other sensory approach in order that an important point may be appreciated. The group of twenty teachers and therapists who joined us at Castle Priory during March was such a group of people, each with a great feeling for music but not exponents of any particular instrument nor of L.R.A.M. standard.

They were able to use the tape recorder and the radiogram where necessary, had their likes and their dislikes with regard to music, but in particular they wanted to share their love of music with the children, and wanted to find ways, without a mass of techniques, to do just this.

We were helped by the County Music Adviser for Berkshire, Mr. Robert Noble,

and, from Nottingham, Miss Catherine Baxter, who, possessing both social science qualifications and musical ability, spent a day introducing the group to Orff Schulwerk. The session began with first principles and we worked very rapidly through the basic course which has been developed by Carl Orff to introduce children to music making with very simple techniques.

This involves word patterns, simple rhythm, a five-note scale and instruments of a percussive nature, which, when blended, give a delightful and very satisfying effect. This would not be the place to talk at length about Orff Schulwerk, but throughout the session we stopped and discussed how this approach could be used for the handicapped person. We were convinced by the evening that with a group of children, each with an individual and varying handicap, one should be able to adapt any instrument in a simple way or alternatively find an instrument for each child which would lend itself to easy music making.

Lively use of Folk Music

The rest of the course was based upon an approach through lively and spontaneous use of folk music. Robert Noble had assembled a vast array of instruments, including drums, cymbals, xylophones, glockenspiels, individual chime bars, tambours, snare drums, and others. There were small electric organs, accordions, guitars, a double bass, a celeste, a zither, a chordal dulcimer and many others, which one appreciated were not suitable for all handicapped persons, but which with careful choice could be used with almost any group.

Mr. Noble's main aim was to ensure that we would be able to accompany, although most of us were not exponents of any instrument at all, simple group singing and playing, when we had learned to 'vamp'. Well-known folk tunes from European countries, which he had collected, and which lent themselves admirably to this approach, were used. Part of the time was spent in small groups, learning how to make use of the main folk instruments, and throughout the weekend individual participants could be seen practising. By the end of the course



Some simple percussion instruments make a merry sound

most of those who had attempted an instrument were able to go away with the knowledge that the children could now be encouraged to sing and play with a lively accompaniment.

We were fortunate in gathering together a variety of materials, wood, nails, gas piping and other strange but useful items, which were taken to the workshop, and where, for the whole of the Saturday morning, the group, of which eighty per cent were ladies, were encouraged to make their own instruments. By the end of the day we had xylophones, with a compass of two octaves, shakers from bamboo, chimes from eight six-inch nails, all perfectly tuned, a pentatonic scale made from suspended gas tubing, and a simple glockenspiel, made from strip silver steel. With the addition of these instruments, the Saturday evening programme developed into a full scale symphonic interlude, and we were able to record pieces of music which had hitherto never been heard.

We did remember, however, that it was the *handicapped* child we were hoping to help, and it gave us great pleasure on Sunday morning to be joined by five or six children from the National Children's Home P.H. School at Chipping Norton, together with the two members of staff who have over the past two or three years made music an important part of the school curriculum. The school caters for children with varying handicaps, including cerebral palsy, congenital deformities and poliomyelitis.

The children played wind and stringed music on instruments which in some cases had been adapted, and which proved beyond any doubt that our group must return to their schools, and bring the joy and the charms of music, which Miss Young has mentioned in her article, to as many children as possible.

It is perhaps significant the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust has made a grant to Liverpool University, for research into the needs of the handicapped person with regard to music.

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**THE EDITOR AND THE BRITISH SOCIETY
FOR MUSIC THERAPY**

THIS ONE-DAY CONFERENCE held in London on 8th July, aimed to deal with four different aspects of music considered as therapy for maladjusted or disabled people—Recreation, Education, Healing and Research.

The pioneering work of the Secretary of the British Society for Music Therapy, Miss Juliette Alvin, R.M.T., is well-known and an interesting panel of speakers had been assembled, but it was a pity that the Vice-President, Mr. Donald Blair, was unable to open the Conference. His place was taken by Mr. J. P. B. Dobbs, who introduced Lady Forsdyke, of Horton Hospital.

Her subject was Music as Recreation for Mental Patients, and she made it clear at once what a valuable function music could play in helping them to achieve a kind of interior peacefulness, and also a measure of social integration. 'Everyone', she said, 'must be invited to join in'. Participation of any kind was important and no matter what the resulting cacophany, the applause of their fellow sufferers or staff was vital. Patients loved to see their own friends on the platform much more than any professional performer, however skilled.

A wide range of tastes must be allowed for, and also the degree of musical ability or knowledge previously possessed by the patient.

A remarkable tape

And here she played the most remarkable tape your correspondent has heard for years, of a brilliant pianist at Horton improvising on a theme and also an original composition. The subtle touch, the melodic invention and exquisite phrasing was of the highest calibre.

For the unskilled, Lady Forsdyke said that mistakes must not be pointed out, everything on the contrary must be done to bolster the patients' 'precarious self-esteem'. Music, she said, has the ability of coming into the 'closed society' which other entertainments cannot.

The obvious sincerity and deep understanding of this talk was heard with respect by the large audience.

The next speaker, a Mr. Arthur Chisnall, on the other hand, who delivered himself of a series of pseudo-philosophical half-truths was greeted with some derision. His knowledge of the music he

played at his jazz club was inaccurate and inadequate and his comments on the views of 'youth' (apparently based on drug addicts of up to 30 years of age!) was superficial to a degree.

It was like a breath of fresh air, to hear the next speaker, who spoke in a humorous down-to-earth vein, based on many years of loving study of handicapped children. He was Mr. Louis Judge, of Valence School, Caterham.

He first went to the School 'to teach the children an instrument', but he spent the first terms just getting to know them. He waited patiently for them to ask him to teach them—and was not disappointed.

Out of the 100 children of 7-17 years old, all badly physically or mentally handicapped, he was able to assemble an orchestra of about 12. The response was amazing and he had no trouble at all in the ensemble work and he found that they loved to play to a large audience. No less than 120 scores were rehearsed and performed during a year.

In this band he would usually have eight violins, two brass and various percussion instrumentalists. Here he made the point that there were far too many piano-teachers: 'Learn another instrument' he demanded.

He was now running into some difficulty however, because he was getting more severely handicapped spastics and others at the School, and correspondingly fewer polio cases who were in a better position to learn.

Mr. Judge was followed by the charming Past-President of the American National Association for Music Therapy, Mrs. Dorothy Brin-Crocker, who spoke most ably. She put forward a plea for the encouragement of composition in Music Therapy Classes. She managed to demonstrate how this could be done, by getting the audience to co-operate in composing a simple melody of 'question and answer' on the spot.

Altogether, one of the more useful conferences.

In the account of the Hospital Equipment Exhibition at Olympia, please note that the washing-machine was the Gastro-nom G.S.10 model, and the detergent attachments for taps, the W-D Teepol and W-D Nonidet J injector are only used in industry (*July issue*).

the Stars in their Courses . . .

*News of the Stars
Organisation for Spastics*

NEWS FROM THE SOUTH

There have been two cricket matches played this month on behalf of S.O.S. funds. The Ealing Round Table organised a match between the **Ealing Cricket Club** and **David Jacob's S.O.S. team** which included Roy Castle, Tom Courtenay, Bernard Cribbens, John Garrie, Jeremy Jacobs, Francis Matthews, Pierre Picton, John Slater and Johnnie Stewart. It was a beautiful sunny day and over £300 was raised from the sale of seats, autographs and side-shows which the Round Table had organised. Peter Yarranton, who is well known from his commentating at the Twickenham rugby seven-asides, acted as commentator.

Leslie Crowther captained an S.O.S. team which played Dulwich Cricket Club and Chris Trace commented giving brilliant impersonations of John Arlott, Richie Benaud and E. W. Swanton. Again, more than £300 was raised for the S.O.S. by the sale of score cards, autographs and tombola tickets.

Alan Freeman very kindly gave up a Saturday evening to make the long journey with me to the *Three Pigeons* at Halstead, where a marvellous collection had been made on behalf of Wakes Hall. After serving a few pints and signing autographs we went on to a dance at Sible Hedingham by the local Festival of Sport Committee who had organised a dance and raffle again in aid of the funds of Wakes Hall. Alan slept all the way back to London which was not surprising as he had spent the afternoon at the Empire Pool, Wembley, compering the Monkees show.

I visited Colwall Court, Bexhill, recently where Mr. and Mrs. Marsh are in the throes of the summer season. It was a lovely day when I was there and the children were having a marvellous time in the garden and the swimming pool. Mr. Marsh and I went to meet the Editor of the Bexhill paper who is kindly arranging the programmes for the special concert being organised on 27th August at the De La Warr Pavilion. Later we visited Mr. Lockwood, the Entertainment

Over She Goes!



With a spot of pizzicato, from Eric Robinson and Mary Rand the beacon falls—fortissimo! How allegro can you get? (The concert-ed effort was at the Stonor Arms, Henley-on-Thames)

Manager at the Pavilion to tell him that the artists who had so far agreed to appear in the concert are Dora Bryan, Hy Hazell, Vera Lynn and Leslie Crowther.

Sylvia Syms has been out on two evenings this month making beacon club visits. On a Tuesday evening she went to the *Prince Albert* and the *Railway Tavern*, both houses being in the Paddington area. The following week on the Thursday, she visited the *Dolphin Hotel*, Kingston, and delighted the customers by singing to them.

Later that evening Hy Hazell took me to a coffee party to meet Billy Graham. There were many familiar faces there including Avril Angers, Dora Bryan and her husband, Cardew Robinson, Jimmy Edwards, Leslie Crowther and his wife, Hattie Jacques, Cliff Richard, Brian and Elspet Rix and Diane Hart.

NEWS FROM THE NORTH

In the north this month there have been nine push-overs but only one of these was attended by a celebrity—**Jack Howarth**. This was at the *Cross Keys*, Preston, where the landlord made his £50 in the space of one year to achieve the required total of £100.

So far 55 push-overs have been arranged in the north since the beginning of 1967.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT— Bexhill Concert, August 27th.

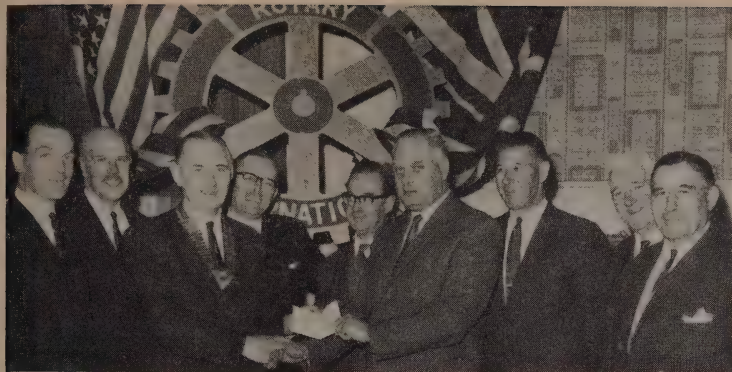
The S.O.S. Committee met recently and agreed that as a concert had not been held at Bexhill for two years every effort should be made to arrange one this summer. The Chairman, David Jacobs, has subsequently decided that the concert should be held on Sunday, 27th August, which is, in fact, Bank Holiday Sunday, by kind invitation of the Entertainment's Manager of the De La Warr Pavilion.

Leslie Crowther and Hy Hazell have already agreed to appear and next month further details of the bill will be printed in SPASTICS NEWS.

WAKES HALL OPEN DAY

Readers of the SPASTICS NEWS may perhaps like to have the opportunity of visiting Wakes Hall at Wakes Colne, near Colchester, on Monday, 28th August—again the Bank Holiday weekend—when an open day is being arranged.

The Oldham Irish Tug-of-War team have raised £100 in three months for us and have promised to continue their efforts and for this we are extremely grateful.



(Courtesy: Warrington Guardian)

With a handsome cheque for £50, here being presented to Mr. F. W. Bellman, the Warden of Daresbury Hall, by Mr. K. A. Hubbard, president of the Warrington Rotary Club, the great total of £6,000 was reached to purchase a motor coach and provide a garage for it. 'The whole district has been most generous', says Mr. Bellman. Also in the picture are Messrs. R. Baldwin, C. Muskett, A. Northcliffe, R. Corlett, N. Sephton, A. Domville and A. W. Tennant.

EMPLOYMENT NEWS

Recent news includes the following items:—

ANTHONY ALLEN from Northwood, has changed his job and is now employed by a firm in Harefield.

STEPHEN BROWN from Brierley Hill, who trained at Sherrards, is now working as a drilling machinist.

KEVIN CARROLL from Putney Heath, is working as a cleaner at the Connaught Rooms, Kingsway.

WILLIAM COOKE from Kirkby, has been working for some time on a part-time basis as a messenger. He has been so successful that his employer has now engaged him full time.

JOHN CROSBY from Cricklewood, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced work as a trainee driller for Charles Bernard & Co. Ltd.

JEFFREY DAVIES from Pontypridd, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, is now employed by a firm in Treforest. He is doing work with computers.

TERRY DOVE-BOIZE from Wimbledon, has commenced his apprenticeship with the Parks Department.

KATHLEEN MITCHELL from Mold, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced training as a machinist for Cymric Skirts Ltd. in Mold.

JOHN HOGGART from Thirsk, is working locally as an apprentice cabinet maker.

MICHAEL MACE from London, has commenced work as a cleaner for a firm of studio lighting engineers.

FRED MORGAN from Elstead, is working in the soft furnishings department of a store in Godalming.

ANTHONY MORRISON from Southall, who trained at Sherrards, has been engaged as a milling operator by A.E.C.—later he will be transferred to capstan lathe operating.

KATHLEEN O'SULLIVAN from Chatham, who trained at Sherrards, has commenced light assembly work for a local engineering firm.

LAWRENCE PARKER from Birkenhead, has changed his job and is now employed by the Birkenhead Corporation Cleansing Department as a street sweeper.

MARGARET PAYNE from Birmingham, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre is working as an office machine operator for a finance company near her home.

TESSA PENNICOTT from Petworth, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre is working as a punch card operator at County Hall, Chichester.

BARBARA ROBINSON from Seaforth, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, has changed her job and is now employed as a filing clerk by Vernons Pools Ltd.

MALCOLM SMITH from Boston, has changed his job and is now working for a printing firm.

JUNE WILLIAMS from Trefor, has commenced employment as an assistant in a shoe shop.

SHIRLEY WOODHOUSE from Slough, who trained at the Chester Office Training Centre, has been engaged as a trainee National operator by British Bitumen Emulsions Ltd.

M.E.V. Itineraries in August

NORTHERN CIRCUIT

Date	Location
29th July-5th Aug.	Llandudno Pier Entrance
AUGUST	
6th to	Bala
7th-12th	Bala Eisteddfod
13th to	Chester
14th-19th	Chester Old King's School
20th to	Southport
21st-25th	Southport Flower Show
26th to	Morecambe
27th-1st Sept.	Morecambe Promenade opposite Skipton St.
2nd Sept. to	Blackpool

SOUTHERN CIRCUIT

28th July-6th Aug.	Sandown Esplanade
AUGUST	
7th to	Salisbury
8th-15th	Salisbury Guildhall Square, Tinkers Hill
16th to	Bournemouth
17th-24th	Bournemouth Poole Park
25th to	Portsmouth
26th-28th	Portsmouth Dock Area— Navy Week
29th to	Basingstoke
30th-2nd Sept.	Basingstoke Market Square

A JOB IN ITALY

A Department in Physiotherapy has been set up in Siena at the Children's Hospital. One or two fully qualified Physiotherapists are required for contracts of one or two years. Foreign staff welcomed. For details of salary, etc., please write to:—

Prof. B. CONFORTI,
ASSOCIAZIONE ITALIANA PER
L'ASSISTENZA AGLI SPASTICI,
SEZIONE DI SIENA,
VIA COZZARELLI- 21,
SIENA, ITALY



When Geno Washington and his Ram Jam Trio visited the Scunthorpe Centre he signed autographs for John Green (Nottingham), Maureen Meredith (Wakefield), Hilary Pickering (Cheltenham), and Michael Ingleby (Grantham)

An Active Warden at Scunthorpe Centre

MR. J. M. DAVIS, who has recently taken on the onerous duties of 'Press and Publicity Agent', and Chairman of the Appeals Promotion Committee for the Scunthorpe District Society, writes to tell us of the remarkable range of activities in which the twenty-six 'very happy and contented residents' of the Lincolnshire Centre take part.

The Centre itself (pictured in the July and October issues of SPASTICS NEWS last year) is the first purpose-built unit in the U.K. providing a home and work, that has been erected as a result of a consortium of Groups: Boston, Grantham, Grimsby, Lincoln, Scunthorpe, and Stamford. They raised no less than £30,000 towards the cost and they are justifiably proud of the result.

The group of attractive, modern buildings is placed in a lovely, sylvan setting and yet is only 1½ miles from the town centre. It has aroused so much interest that 4,000 visitors have been to see it, and donated over £1,000 as a result. In truth, the facilities leave nothing to be desired.

The Warden, Mr. D. Hazelton—an 'untiring Foster-Father'—and his staff are unsparing in their efforts to bring life to the Centre, or where that is not possible, to 'take the Centre into the life of the community.

To this end, visits have been arranged to the Centre of local 'pop' groups and

exchange of visits between Boy Scout, Sea Scout, Girl Guide, Sea Rangers and other organisations, some of whom have 'adopted' the Centre and so help to give more meaning to the somewhat circumscribed lives of the residents.

Wednesday nights are the big nights however when sports fans go to the local Municipal Baths to see the wrestling. Here, Mr. Willey, the manager, has kindly arranged special seating for parties from the Centre to get an uninterrupted view of the Stars of the hairy-chested brigade such as, Jackie Pallo, Mick McManus and Co.

Many of them have paid a visit to Brumley Wood Lane in return, and the Visitors' Book reads like a 'Who's Who' of the wrestling world.

The residents' latest excitement was an impromptu visit by Geno Washington and the Ram Jam Band when they were appearing at Doncaster.

Mr. Davis concludes his epistle with the following memorable phrases!:

'... I will enlighten you as to the work done by members of our Group—efforts to further the cause of our noble Society; on reflection, this is probably the reason that—hitherto—no one has had time to sit down and let you know what has been happening at Scunthorpe—they've all been too busy fund-raising!'

Thank you, Mr. Davis, we look forward to further graphic bulletins from your pen.

Book Review

Cerebral Palsy: Basic Abilities

by
BEATRICE LE GAY BRERETON
and
JENNIFER SATTLER

Published by The Spastics Centre,
Mosman, New South Wales

Price \$A5

THIS BOOK IS THE JOINT PRODUCTION of a teacher and an occupational therapist, and as its secondary title 'A Plan for Training the Pre-School Child' indicates, its aim is a practical one.

Based on their work at the Mosman Spastics Centre, New South Wales, the authors hold the view that the ability to see relationships, which is established between the ages of 5 and 7 years, is itself dependent on the prior establishment of certain 'basic abilities'. These, which seem to be largely perceptual in nature, are said to develop from the range and quality of Sensory experience between the ages of 3 and 5½ years.

While the authors acknowledge the uncertainty of some of their assumptions, at the same time claiming that they are based on the best information at present available, they show courage in attempting to identify these 'abilities'. In general they seem to amount to an increased perceptual sensitivity and discrimination based on a more selective and efficient organisation of all sensory, including visuo-motor, experiences.

The target of training is to encourage the development of these basic abilities. The techniques of training are to provide adequate experiences of the right type and quality in deliberately structured learning situations. The ideas and materials that make up the training plan owe much to a wide range of earlier work both published and unpublished, and particular acknowledgment is made to Albitreccia, Ayres, Frostig, Kephart and Montessori.

Although the theoretical basis of the work could be questioned, this point may be of less interest to the practising teacher or therapist whose primary concern with any training plan or method is usually the basic one of 'Does it work?'

As the book sets out quite simply and clearly some of the means which it is claimed will help to achieve certain defined ends, the teacher or therapist who is sufficiently interested has an opportunity to provide the answer to her own question.

The book is well-written, attractively produced, and offers much to stimulate and interest all concerned with the education of cerebral palsied children at the nursery and infant level.

F.G.M.

Bimba and Boo pick some flowers —and get lost

by
Ann Hughes

BIMBA AND BOO were two little girls who lived next door to each other on the edge of a Village Green in the New Forest.

Now this Village was named Deerhill and there was a lot of forest land all around, but quite a long way away were the big forest trees.

Bimba and Boo each lived with their own fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters, but Bimba and Boo were the littlest so they became best friends.

Now Bimba had blue eyes and very pretty long straight hair but could not see very well, and Boo had dark short curly hair and brown eyes but she could not walk very fast.

Bimba and Boo did not go to the Village School like their brothers and sisters, so Miss Sweet, who was a bit old but very kind, came one day to Bimba's house to teach them their lessons and the next day to Boo's house.

Now Boo would help Bimba with her reading and Bimba held Boo's hand when she got tired when they went for long walks.

One day, walking across the fields to the forest looking for wild flowers (it was a bit late in the day for mushrooms) Boo said:

'Look at those lovely white violets, we must gather them and take them home.'

But she could not *run fast* and Bimba could not *see* that far away, so Bimba took Boo's arm and they walked along slowly until they came to the banks of wild flowers, where the wild white violets were really quite hidden.

'Oh, what a lovely scent,' they both said, and they sat down on the grass and looked at the trees high above them.

'Do you think we should pick them?' said Bimba, 'they do smell so wonderful.' And Boo said:

'I think your mother and my mother would be so happy that we have gone all this long way by ourselves. Don't you think it would be nice for them if we took back all these lovely white violets and then they could put them on the bed-side table, and then if they woke in the night they would smell their beautiful scent.'

So Bimba and Boo gathered the white violets and it took quite a long time to make two really nice bunches, and off they set back for home.

On their walk out to the forest it did not seem very far, but going home it started to get dark, they had quite forgotten how long they had sat looking at the trees and picking the flowers. They did not tell each other that they were a bit afraid, and only laughed when a rabbit suddenly popped up in front of them.

Now Bimba felt that Boo was getting tired and Boo knew that Bimba could not see very well, and as it was getting darker and darker it was a great worry to both of them as they were both getting a little bit afraid.

Sometimes big shapes came in front of them—but they were only the wild deer or the Forest ponies. Then the will-o-the-wisps gave them a little hope, for by now they had lost their way, and then they remembered 'Never follow the will-o-the-wisps because they will only lead you into the bogs,' and there are many bogs in the Forest.

Bimba then said to Boo:

'I will go first, and put one foot at a time very carefully, and you must hold onto my arm, then between us we will find the right footpath home.'



they walked to the forest to
look for wild flowers . . .

A story for the small children . . .

Bimba and Boo were still holding their bunches of white violets when they saw a lantern—or was it another will-o-the-wisp?

Now very frightened they stopped very still, and when a deep voice said:

'Are you alright?' they were too afraid to answer.

However, the light came nearer and nearer, and as it came nearer it grew bigger and bigger, then Bimba and Boo knew it must be one of the kind Forest Keepers who was out looking after the deer and the Forest ponies.

The Bimba and Boo both said together:

'We have lost our way', and then the Deep Voice said:

'That's alright, I know the Forest like the back of my hand. You are Bimba and Boo, aren't you?'

When he saw their bunches of white violets, he sighed, and thought, not many people find white violets in the Forest. Then he said:

'Come along Bimba, hold onto my coat and I will carry Boo,' and so he led them to safety.

Bimba and Boo's mothers said to Deep Voice:

'Oh, thank you so much, we were getting so worried,' then Deep Voice said:

'Well, I must be on my way back to the Forest to see that the deer and the ponies are all safe—but he did also say, to the mothers:

'You have the bravest littlest two'.

THE END



So Deep Voice carried Boo and led
them both to safety

'MR. PASTRY' EXPLAINS

Dear Editor,

May I put you completely in the picture as to how my Fund operates? It has built water therapy treatment pools for thirteen centres affiliated with The Spastics Society, and I also started funds for five others.

My Fund started just over ten years ago, when I promised to raise the £5,000 required to build the first water therapy treatment pool for the National Spastics Society Institution at Coombe Farm, Croydon—this pool finally cost a great deal more than £5,000—as the whole project was extended. Before this pool was opened I had already started on further funds for similar pools for the Thomas Delarue School, Tonbridge, Mote Road Centre, Maidstone, and the Cheyne Walk Centre, Chelsea. The first two most certainly controlled by the National Spastics Society.

So great was the success of this Fund that it became registered under the name of the 'Mr. Pastry Swimming Pool Fund' for incapacitated children, and it has today built 30 similar pools for Spastic centres, schools and day clinics throughout the United Kingdom, and one for the Scottish Spastic Society. The Fund has raised over £200,000, and as it is a one-man show I have managed this without having to call upon one farthing in administration expenses.

The Fund operates in this way. No pool is solicited. The Fund is appealed to, and once the project is accepted it is given a number. I then require a little bit

LETTERS EDITOR



Please address your letters to:—

The Editor, Spastics News, The Spastics Society, 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1., and print your address clearly at the end of the letter. There is 10s. 6d. for each letter published sent by a spastic.

of information, for example—how many children in the institution? Up to what ages are they? How big is the pool going to be? How much is it going to cost? I now have the information I require for my appeal and a target. When I have almost reached my target I inform the administrators and they can go ahead with their building. When the building is completed it is officially opened and the Fund has no further responsibility. I never interfere in the planning of the pool, shape or design, but I do insist that the pool should be covered, and the water heated to a possible 98 degrees.

I don't need to tell you that work of this kind without administration charges has to seek its publicity wherever pos-

sible, although word of mouth has carried great weight over the years. The more people know about the 'Mr. Pastry Swimming Pool Fund' the quicker I will be able to fulfil my pledge: 'I will see that one of these pools is placed in every institution in this country that caters for incapacitated children and requires this piece of equipment'.

I don't remember my Fund having been featured in SPASTICS NEWS at any time, and I thank you very much indeed for your interest.

Yours sincerely, RICHARD HEARNE, Abbey Gate Place, Tovil, Maidstone, Kent.

THAT LOOK!

Dear Editor,

In the April issue of SPASTICS NEWS, 'A letter from Ireland' about people's attitude towards spastics reminded me that I too have the same trouble, although I find it annoying at times, I must admit I enjoy watching how people react to things I say and do and **THAT LOOK** they give me, oh, how I love interpreting **THAT LOOK**.

I am often told in subtle ways that I cannot read, write or count. When reading a book I am usually asked (a) can you read that book. (b) let me see what you are reading, then I receive a surprised look because it is not 'Noddy and Big Ears'. (c) why, there aren't any pictures, as one person so politely remarked. If I ask someone to fill in a form because my writing happens to be about three inches tall by four inches wide (slightly exaggerated) and barely legible (not exaggerated) and won't exactly fit on a tiny dotted line, the reply is, 'certainly, these silly forms are difficult to fill in I find the questions a puzzle myself' which MEANS she doesn't know what it is all about. As for counting I have given up hope of convincing people that I do know what comes after one.

Although I am in a wheelchair if I am out of doors or at work I can walk



'Mr. Pastry', in bowler hat and striped bathing dress in the pool at the Luton Centre when it was opened by Princess Marina. Lady Zia Wernher, after whom it was named, is on the extreme left

about my own home quite well and can manage some household chores with ease. I am often asked if I can help with the housework and being a honest person I always say oh, yes, I can wash-up, wash my own clothes, vacuum etc. Then I receive a pat on the head, told I am clever, with a look of disbelief, which says, 'you poor demented thing, you do not know what you are saying'. Yet when asked if I do much knitting or embroidery and I say none at all I am then told that I am just being modest and that I must be very good at it.

If I am at a party or public-house and someone asks me if they can get me a drink, and I ask for anything stronger than lemonade, parents or friends then have to be consulted and when told it is alright I am given the drink reluctantly with raised eyebrows and a look which says, 'if you belonged to me you wouldn't have that'. I am watched until I have finished the drink and then I see a sigh of relief on the person's face who bought me the drink because I am not doing a fan-dango or sprawled on the floor hiccupping and singing at the top of my voice.

If a corny joke is being told, clean or otherwise, and I do not laugh I receive a pat on the head and told that it isn't very funny by a person who then promptly collapses into fits of laughter. If I do laugh, surprise, surprise! or as I once overheard someone say, 'she is only laughing because everyone else is, she doesn't really understand'.

Life is funny and I always feel that I have the upper hand.

Yours sincerely, LORRAINE CHAMBERS (Miss), 140 Beech Avenue, Swindon, Wilts.



(Courtesy: Kent Messenger)

A year ago, Miss Jill Ball moved from Croydon where she had attended Bramley Hill. She is here between her parents in the second row when she gave a party in Headcorn, Kent, Village Hall, for her friends from Croydon and District and the Maidstone Area Group

TO ENCOURAGE YOUNG PARENTS

Dear Editor,

May I ask you to publish in our 'NEWS' my gratitude and thanks to The Spastics Society and staff, for all the kindness, encouragement, and consideration they have extended to me, and my son, over many years.

From school-leaving age, when David and I had a most kind Headmaster, his wife and staff, The Spastics Society, took over. I can sincerely say that, without the Society's help, I would have been unable to carry on. Life with a handicapped child surrounded by a family, brings much sorrow and many problems, but when one is entirely bereft of family support, and coping alone with the strains

and stresses, demanding progress and not stagnation for a handicapped son, now aged twenty-two, it sometimes becomes unsupportable.

I feel that this letter may help to give comfort and re-assurance to younger parents who are submerged with worry as to what to do for the best.

I CAN ASSURE THEM THAT WITH THE SPASTICS SOCIETY BEHIND US, WE NEED NEVER FEEL ALONE.

In gratitude, DOROTHY DUFF-STILL (Mrs.), Flat D, Earl's Avenue, Folkestone, Kent.

THE INITIATIVE CAMP

Dear Editor,

On 17th June spastics from various parts of the country assembled at Park Crescent to take part in this year's Initiative Camp held at Woodlarks Camp Site, Farnham, Surrey. This was the seventh time that our leader, Mr. Hargreaves, had arranged a camp of this nature and it was also his largest one. Forty-two spastics attended with varying degrees of handicap, twenty-three of these were in wheelchairs.

After travelling to Farnham by coach we arrived at the camp where a most welcome hot meal awaited us. This was followed by a camp-fire sing-song and later we went to bed, the first time that many of us had ever spent a night under canvas.

Next day the camp was divided into groups, each designated by a letter, thus we had a rota in the days that followed for doing the daily chores, washing-up, peeling potatoes, chopping wood and all the other jobs which have to be done when one is in camp. These tasks usually kept everyone fully occupied for most of the morning.

In our free time, good use was made

(Continued overleaf)



WOODFORD WORK CENTRE: The Mayor of Redbridge, Ald. Lionel Gooch, and his wife the Mayoress, inspecting a piece of elm that will be made into a table-top, with Miss Sheila Gould, Head of the Centre, the Rev. Derek Langham, Minister of Ray Lodge Congregational Church, Miss M. R. Morgan and Mr. Derek Lancaster-Gaye

Letters to the Editor (Cont'd)

of the magnificent new heated swimming pool at Woodlarks. During the week too, we had a whole day boating and fishing on the lake at Frensham, although nobody caught any fish!

There were also opportunities for us to try our hand at horsemanship at a nearby riding school which was a new and quite novel experience for most of us. We had to go riding in two separate groups on different days. On the occasion of my group's visit, the owner very kindly showed us a number of different breeds of horses and told us something about them.

We also visited the newly-built Sheltered Workshop at Woodlarks where handicapped girls are employed making and painting gaily coloured wooden toys for sale to a London department store which is their main outlet. We were most fortunate with the weather for all our activities, having only one wet day.

I think a camp such as this one, gives spastics a much-needed opportunity to do jobs which they would not normally be expected to tackle at home. I feel it is a good thing for us to be able to spend our time in the open air, particularly as many of us are housebound, learning to be a little more independent.

Our sincere thanks to the members of the Society's staff and to all who made it possible for us to have such a happy and successful week's holiday.

Yours sincerely, PETER DAVIS, 338 Selly Oak, Kings Norton, Birmingham 30.



(Courtesy: Surrey Mirror)

Members of East Surrey Group helping to erect the obstacles at the Gymkhana organised by Pink Barn Stables at White Owl Farm, Reigate. Richard Hearne ('Mr. Pastry') paid a visit to the show and saw the disabled riders display

WHY PEEL 'EM?

Dear Editor,

The 'fiddly domestic task' of scraping new potatoes, which defeats 'Reluctant Spud-Basher' can be completely conquered by accepting the following advice:

Don't Peel nor Scrape Them!—Just wash them thoroughly several times in lots of clean cold water, using a large bowl and a colander. Boil in the usual way; drain off the water, cover with a good knob of butter or with gravy.

This is perhaps, not one of the 'bright ideas' your reader is asking for, nor is it by any means original—but there cannot possibly be a more practical solution!

The method is widely used in boarding schools, camps, homes, houses, etc., and indeed, dieticians reckon there is addi-

tional nutriment when cooked this way.

Even with the old potato baked in its jacket—the tough old peel can be quite pleasant and palatable. However the new potatoes' skins, are so fine and tissue-like, that they are hardly 'tastable'. Besides, just like with tomatoes, the skins can be put aside on one's plate with knife or fork.

Bon Appetit wishes to your complainant. May he/she reduce the task, by bearing in mind, at all time, the highly calorific content of potatoes, old or new!

Yours sincerely, S.C., (Social Work and Employment Department).

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Cumberland, Westmorland and Furness Spastics Society

Darlington and District Spastics Society

Durham and District Spastics Society

South Shields and District Spastics Society

Sunderland and District Spastics Society

Tees-side Spastics Society

Regional Officer: To be appointed

Office at 34/35 Saddler Street, Durham. Tel. 2654 (0385). Being administered temporarily by S.R.O. (N.)

2 YORKSHIRE REGION

Barnsley and District Association

Bradford and District Branch

Castleford and District Spastics Society

Dewsbury and District Spastics Society

Goole and District Spastics Society

Halifax and District Spastics Society

Huddersfield and District Spastics Society

Hull and District Spastics Society

Leeds and District Spastics Society

Pontefract and District Spastics Association

Rawmarsh and Parkgate Spastics Society

Sheffield and District Spastics Society

York and District Spastics Group

Regional Officer:

Mr. R. J. F. Whyte, Royal Chambers, Station Parade, Harrogate. Tel. 69655 (0423)

3 MANCHESTER REGION

Barrow-in-Furness and District Spastic and

Handicapped Children's Society

Blackburn and District Spastics Group

Blackpool and Fylde Spastics Society

Bolton and District Spastics Society

Burnley Area and Rossendale Spastics

Group

Lancaster, Morecambe and District Spastics Society

Manchester and District Spastics Society

Oldham and District Spastics Society

Preston and District Spastics Group

Sale, Altrincham and District Spastics

Society

Stockport, East Cheshire and High Peak

Spastics Society

Urmston and District Group

Wigan and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

To be appointed. Room 481, 4th Floor St. James's Buildings, 89 Oxford Street, Manchester 1. Tel. 061 CEN 2088

Regional Worker:

Mrs. M. Moncaster, same address

4 MERSEYSIDE & NORTH WALES REGION

Birkenhead Spastic Children's Society

Caernarvonshire Spastics and Handicapped

Peoples' Society

Crosby, Bootle, Litherland and District

Spastics Society

Warrington and District Group for the

Welfare of Spastics

Chester and District Spastics Association

Colwyn Bay and District Spastics Society

Crewe and District Spastics Society

Flint and District Spastics Society

Montgomeryshire Spastics Society

Southport, Formby and District Spastics

Society

Widnes Spastic Fellowship Group

Regional Officer:

Mr. F. Young, 6 King's Buildings, Chester.

Tel. 27127 (0244)

Regional Social Worker:

Miss E. Williams, same address

5 EAST MIDLAND REGION

Boston District Branch

Chesterfield and District Spastics Society

Colville and District Spastics Society

Derby and District Spastics Society

Grantham and District Friends of Spastics

Group

Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District Friends

of Spastics Society

Leicester and District Spastics Society

Lincoln and District Spastics Society

Loughborough and District Spastics Society

Mansfield and District Friends of Spastics

Group

Newark Area Spastics Society

Northampton and County Spastics Society

Nottingham and District Friends of Spastics

Group

Scunthorpe and District Spastics Society

Stamford and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

Mr. T. H. O'Neill, Holland House, 43 Lough-

borough Road, Westbridford, Nottingham.

Tel. 84357 (0602)

Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. M. Lane, same address

6 WEST MIDLAND REGION

Coventry and District Spastics Society

Dudley and District Spastic Group

Herefordshire Spastics Society

Kidderminster and District Spastics

Association

Midland Spastic Association

North Staffordshire Spastic Association

Shropshire Spastics Society

Stafford and District Spastic Association

West Bromwich and District Spastics Society

Wolverhampton and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

Mr. I. C. R. Archibald, Vehicle and General

House, Hurst St., Birmingham 5.

Tel. 643-3367

Regional Social Worker:

Mr. M. Townsend, same address

(apart from Birmingham and Worcestershire

areas)

Senior Welfare Officer, M.S.A. (Birmingham

and Worcestershire areas):

Mrs. N. M. Barrett, 15 Victoria Road, Har-

borne, Birmingham 17. Tel. 021 HAR 3182

and 021 HAR 2458

7 SOUTH WALES REGION

(including Monmouthshire)

Cardiff and District Spastics Association

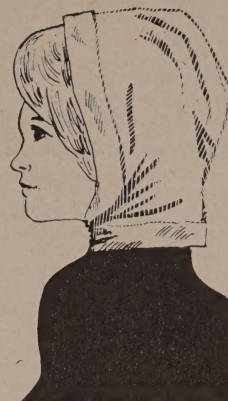
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Merthyr Tydfil and District Spastics Society

Monmouthshire Spastics Society

Continued Overleaf

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Pontypridd and District Spastics Society
Swansea and District Spastics Assoc. **TECW**

Regional Officer:

Mr. B. Kingsley-Davies, 2 Saunders Road,
Cardiff. Tel. 29289 (0222)

Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. P. A. Smith, same address

8 EAST ANGLIA REGION

Braintree and North-West Essex Spastics
Society
Cambridge and District Spastics Society
Chelmsford and District Spastics Society
Clacton and District Spastics Society
Colchester and District Spastics Society
Ipswich and East Suffolk Spastics Society **TW**
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Spastics
Society
Lowestoft and N.E. Suffolk Spastics Society
Norfolk and Norwich Spastics Association **W**
Peterborough and District Spastics Group **O**
Southend-on-Sea and District Spastics
Society **OC**
Thurrock and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

Mr. H. G. Knight, 51 Newnham Road,
Cambridge. Tel. 61747 (0223)

Regional Social Worker:

Mrs. G. J. Thorn, 53A Head Street, Col-
chester. Tel. 72374

9 NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES REGION

Bedford and District Branch **TOWEC**
Bishop's Stortford and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society
East Herts Group, Herts Spastics Society
Friends of Ponds Home
Hatfield and District Spastics Society
Hemel Hempstead and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society
Hitchin, Letchworth and Stevenage Spastics
Society
Luton, Dunstable and District Spastics
Group **TEC**
Maidenhead Friends of Spastics Group
Oxfordshire Spastics Welfare Society **TOC**
Reading and Berkshire Spastics Welfare
Society **T**
Slough and District Spastics Welfare Society
St. Albans and District Group, Herts
Spastics Society **T**
Watford and District Group, Herts Spastics
Society **TEOC**
Welwyn Garden City and District Group,
Herts Spastics Society
Wycombe and District Spastics Society **CT**

Regional Officer:

Mr. R. C. Lemarie, 524 St. Alban's Road,
North Watford. Tel. 41565 (92)

Regional Social Workers:

Miss U. M. Ballance, same address. Tel.: 41059
(92)

Miss C. A. Cuming (part-time), Area Social
Work Office, Castle Priory, Thames St.,
Wallingford, Berks. Tel. 0491 3 2551

10 WESSEX REGION

Andover and District Spastics Society
Basingstoke and District Spastics Society
Bournemouth, Poole and District Spastics
Society **CTE**

Cheltenham and District Spastics

Association

Gloucester and District Spastics Association

Isle of Wight Spastics Society **TE**

Portsmouth and District Spastics Society **W**

Salisbury and District Spastics Association

Southampton and District Spastics

Association

Swindon and District Spastics Society **H**

Winchester and District Spastics Society

Regional Officer:

Miss C. Mould, 7 St. John Street, Salisbury
Tel. 4521 (0722)

Regional Social Worker:

Mr. R. Jenkinson, same address

11 WEST REGION

Bath and District Spastics Society
Bridgwater and District Friends of Spastics
Association **T**
Bristol Spastics Association **OW**
Cornish Spastics Society **H**
Exeter and Torbay Districts Spastics Society **T**
Plymouth Spastic (CP) Association **COETW**
Weston and District Society for the Spastic
and Mentally Handicapped **TR**
Yeovil and District Spastics Welfare Society

Regional Officer:

Mr. P. J. H. Pope, St. John House, Staple-
grove Road, Taunton, Somerset. Tel. 81678
(0823)

Regional Social Worker:

Miss H. M. Day, c/o Bristol Work Centre,
Dovercourt Road, Bristol 7. Tel. 693695
Mrs. S. N. Fox (part-time), St. John House,
Staple Grove Road, Taunton, Somerset. Tel.
81678 (0823)

12 LONDON REGION

Regional Officer:

(North of the Thames)

Mr. N. J. Goldfrap, 28 Fitzroy Sq., London,
W.1. Tel. Euston 2436

Central Middlesex Spastics Welfare Society **W**

East London Spastics Society **H**

Epping Forest and District Branch **TO**

Ilford, Romford and District Spastics

Association **O**

North London Area Association of Parents

and Friends of Spastics **T**

North-West London Spastics Society **W**

South-West Middlesex Group

Walthamstow and District Spastics Society

Friends of the Centre for Spastic Children

Regional Officer:

(South of the Thames)

Mr. Alan Henderson, 28 Fitzroy Sq., London,
W.1. Tel. Euston 2436

Croydon and District Spastics Society **TEWC**

North Surrey Group **W**

North-West Kent Spastics Group **WO**

South-East London Group **H**

South London Group

South-West London and District Group

West Kent Spastics Society **W**

13 SOUTH-EAST REGION

Brighton, Hove and District Spastics Soc. **OC**

Canterbury and Kent Coast Spastics Group

Central Surrey Group **W**

East Sussex Group **C**

Folkestone Group **H**
Horsham, Crawley and District Spastic Society
Maidstone Area Spastic Group **OT**
Medway Towns Branch **CT**
North Hants and West Surrey Group **TECO**
North-West Surrey Group **TEOC**
South-East Surrey Group **TOC**
South-West Surrey Group **TEOC**

Thanet Group

Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge and Area

Group **C**

West Sussex Spastics Group

Worthing, Littlehampton & District Spastics

Society **W**

Regional Officer:

Mr. M. R. Venables, office at 29b Linkfield
Lane, Redhill, Surrey. Tel. 63944 and 62250
(756)

Regional Social Workers:

Mrs. Vera Chinchin, same address
Miss J. M. Goldie (part-time), same address

Jersey Spastics Society

Northern Ireland Council for Orthopaedic
Development (Inc.)

Chief Regional Officer:

Mr. A. M. Frank, M.C., M.A.

Schools and Centres Secretary:

Mrs. C. A. Clifton

Social Work and Employment Secretary:

Miss M. R. Morgan, M.B.E.

Acting Projects Secretary:

Mr. M. R. H. Stopford
All at 12 Park Crescent, London, W.1

Senior Regional Officer (North):

Group-Capt. W. A. L. Davis, C.B.E., D.F.C.,
A.F.C., c/o Yorkshire Office

Senior Regional Officer (West):

Mr. D. S. Hutcheson, 43 Bridge St., Taunton,
Somerset. Tel. 82489 (0823)

Senior Regional Officer (East):

Brig. C. V. Halden, B.A., Harrold House,
Harrold, Beds. Harrold 257

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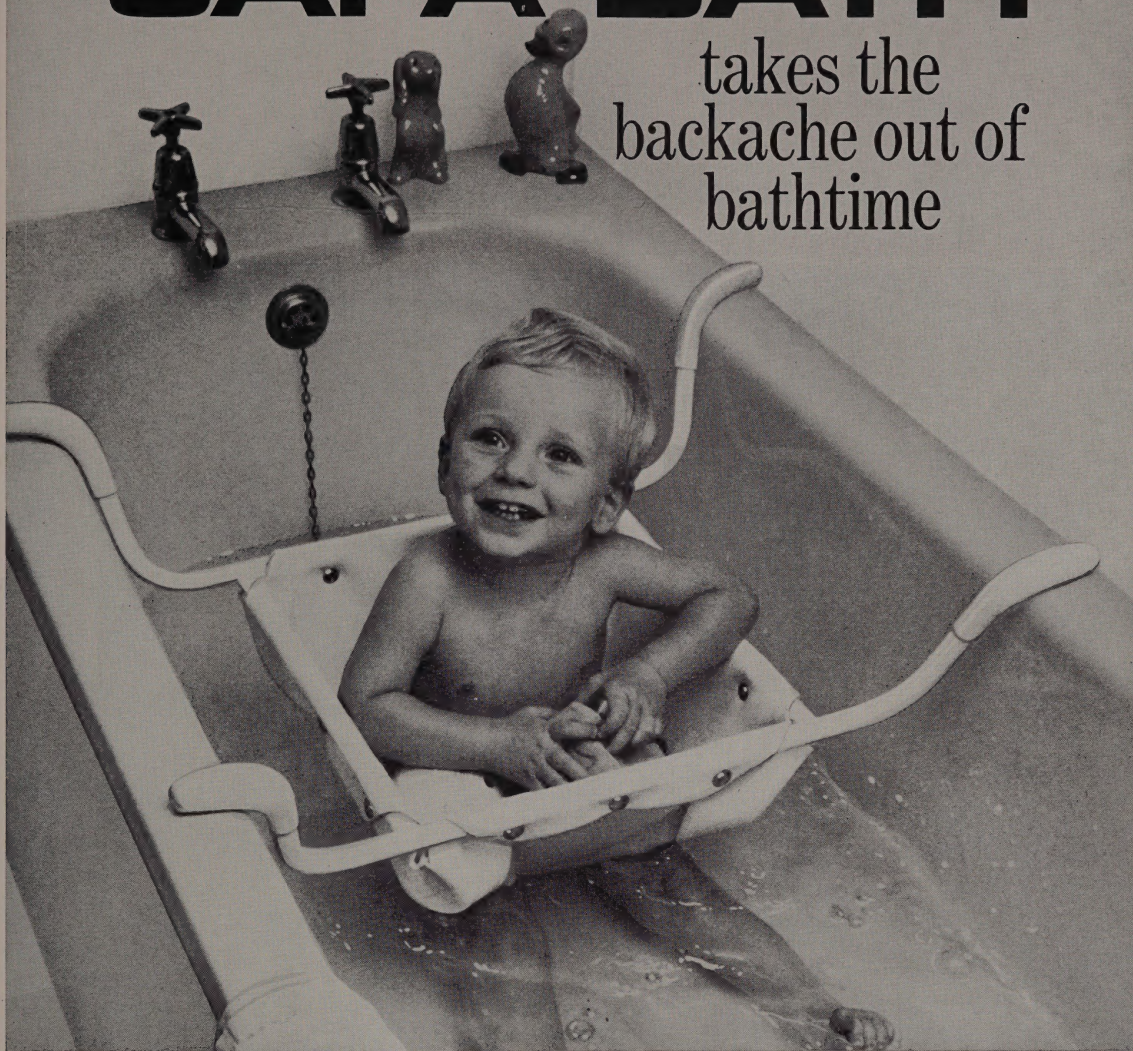
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Minnie's Stand-in Stars at Hawksworth



(Courtesy: Telegraph and Argus)

Mr. J. D. Johnson, Headmaster of Hawksworth Hall Residential Centre and Mrs. Johnson, report a successful Fete, when £680 was raised. Their own donkey proved reluctant so Robin, seen above gave the children their buggy-rides. He was bought by pupils of Parklands High School, Leeds, for £15, and presented to Hawksworth. Thanks too, to the Hawksworth Residents Association, Hawksworth W.I., Tranmere Ladies, Bingley Mothers Club, Aireborough Rotary and Inner Wheel and Aireborough Ladies Circle.